

What is mobile polling?



Mobile polling is an in-person voting service delivered by AEC polling staff to voters who do not have viable access to other voting services. Mobile polling teams can attend eligible facilities (for example, a residential aged care facility or a prison) to provide a voting service to people in a more comfortable and accessible environment than a polling place. Mobile polling also enables voters to receive support from AEC staff directly when voting.

How many people are in the team?

Mobile polling teams usually consist of two people: a team leader and a team member. If they are attending a large facility, there may be additional team members present to assist voters and help issue votes.

Scrutineers also have a legal right to observe mobile polling. They may enter and leave the facility at any time during polling.

What do the teams bring with them?

Mobile polling teams bring election materials and office materials. Office materials include pens, calculators, scissors, rubber bands, tape and writing pads.

Election materials include ballot papers, ballot boxes, privacy screens, a how-to-vote guide in multiple languages, security seals and laptops with the approved list of voters for the electoral event.

How does mobile polling work?



Prior to mobile polling

Mobile polling is arranged with a manager of a facility in advance of the service being provided. This includes determining the appropriate day(s) and time for a mobile polling team to visit, and identifies important information such as entry requirements, COVID-19 requirements and parking availability.



On arrival

Once mobile polling teams have checked into a facility on the pre-arranged day, they will set up the polling location. This can vary based on the size of the facility, however it will include a space for issuing votes and a space for voters to cast their vote in private. Mobile teams in residential aged care facilities may also issue votes to residents in their rooms as a bedside service if required.

Once teams have set up the polling space, the Team Leader provides their Team Member(s) with some instructions and makes sure everyone has their ID badges, vests and other equipment.

Set up takes approximately 30 minutes.



Polling

At the approved time for polling, the team can start issuing votes.

AEC staff will ask a voter their full name, where they live (or their enrolled address) and if they have already voted in this election or referendum (this may include checking if they have completed a postal vote).

If the voter is enrolled in the same division where the facility is located, their name will be marked off the approved list of voters and they will be handed their ballot papers and provided instructions for how to complete the ballot papers. After voting, the voter will put their own ballot papers into the ballot box.

If the voter is enrolled in a different division to the facility, the voter will need to complete a declaration vote. An AEC staff member will assist them to complete the declaration envelope and will provide ballot papers and instructions to complete ballot papers. The voter will need to return these ballot papers to the staff member helping them.

If any voter makes a mistake, they can ask for new ballot papers.

AEC staff can help voters who ask for assistance to complete their ballot papers. Voters can ask anyone, other than a candidate, for assistance with the voting process.

If political party how-to-vote cards have been provided to the AEC in a federal election, AEC staff must provide this information to voters who ask for it.

AEC staff are required to stay at the facility until the end of the advertised time for polling, even if everyone has voted.

If there are people lined up waiting to vote at the end of polling, AEC staff will issue votes to those who are in the queue before packing up.



After polling

Once polling has finished, AEC staff will need to undertake a few activities before they can leave. This includes counting unused ballot papers and entering information into the record of security seals form.

The pack up process can take up to 30 minutes.